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CONTACT: Steve Maviglio
916/ 445-4571

**GOVERNOR DAVIS ANNOUNCES BUY CALIFORNIA
COMPETITIVE GRANT RECIPIENTS**

\$7 Million in Grants to Promote California Commodities

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gray Davis today announced more than 50 grants awarded in the Buy California Initiative.

“These funds will benefit growers at the local level,” Gov. Davis said. “We will make sure California’s Agriculture community maintains their edge as the world’s premier agricultural producers.”

The \$7 million in competitive grants will generate a wave of research, marketing and education efforts that will benefit the state’s many growers. Over 250 proposals were received. California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Secretary William (Bill) J. Lyons Jr. selected a team of scientists and specialists from his staff to judge the proposals and choose the final 51 recipients. Under Gov. Davis’ orders Sec. Lyons directed his team to look for projects that had the greatest value to the largest number of commodity producers.

The Buy California Initiative is intended to help boost consumption of California’s agricultural products. In addition to the \$7 million competitive grants program, the initiative includes \$57 million for marketing and promotion and \$12 million for agricultural research and pest management.

The funds are part of a \$5.5 billion supplemental farm aid package approved by the federal government last year that provides economic aid to commodity growers. The Agricultural Economic Assistance Act targeted California specialty crop growers who don’t receive traditional farm subsidies.

CDFA oversees Gov. Davis’ \$76 million Buy California Initiative, which is an unprecedented commitment to increase demand and develop new markets for the state’s agricultural commodities.

A complete list of the competitive grant recipients is available on CDFA’s Web site. www.cdfa.ca.gov.

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